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POTATO STOCKS

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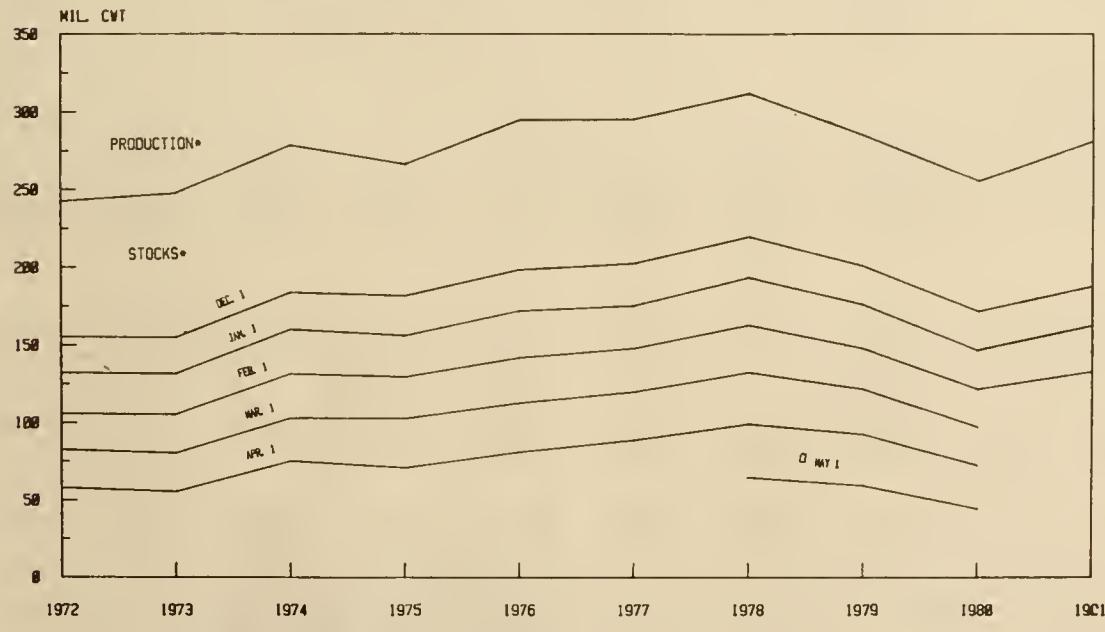
POTATO STOCKS UP 9 PERCENT FROM YEAR EARLIER

Estimated potato stocks in 15 major fall States as of February 1, 1982 are 133 million cwt (6.02 million metric tons), 9 percent above February 1 a year ago but 10 percent less than on February 1, 1980. Of the total stocks on hand in 11 major States, 74 percent are Russets, 22 percent Whites and 4 percent Reds.

Estimated holdings in the three Eastern States total 19.9 million cwt, 10 percent greater than a year earlier but 16 percent below February 1, 1980. Stocks in Maine, at 15.1 million cwt, are up 9 percent from a year ago. In the six Central States estimated stocks are 26.7 million cwt, 38 percent more than on February 1, 1981 but 1 percent below February 1, 1980. North Dakota's stocks are 51 percent greater than a year ago while Minnesota and Wisconsin are up 25 and 53 percent, respectively. Holdings in the six Western States are estimated at 86.2 million cwt, 2 percent above February 1, 1981 but 11 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks are estimated at 44.5 million cwt, 4 percent less than a year earlier. Holdings in Washington and Oregon are up 13 and 9 percent, respectively, compared with February 1, 1981.

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FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS 1/

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1971 2/	258,613	172,550	148,600	122,350	97,150		
1972	242,390	155,190	132,050	105,690	82,510	57,860	
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	255,691	171,730	146,610	121,565	97,280	72,460	44,446
1981	281,375	187,790	160,010	132,770			

1/ SEE TABLE 3 FOR LIST OF 15 STATES. 2/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1980 AND 1981 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE :SEASON	TO : DEC 1	TO : JAN 1	TO : FEB 1	TO : MAR 1	TO : APR 1	TO : MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO.,	1980-81	14,460	18,710	23,230	28,110	33,570	39,210	52,720
OREG	1981-82	16,720	21,240	26,000				
MAINE 2/	1980-81	2,190	2,880	3,510	4,245	4,980	5,885	6,660
	1981-82	2,145	2,715	3,450				
WASH AND OTHER AREAS,	1980-81	14,610	16,845	19,725	23,710	27,405	31,500	39,020
OREG	1981-82	17,745	21,270	24,915				
OTHER STATES 3/	1980-81	2,355	2,890	3,745	4,565	5,205	6,105	7,550
	1981-82	2,860	3,670	4,635				
TOTAL	1980-81	33,615	41,325	50,210	60,630	71,160	82,700	105,950
	1981-82	39,470	48,895	59,000				

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH OR MINN. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1981 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1982

STATE	CROP OF 1980			CROP OF 1981		
	: : :FEB 1 STOCKS:		: : :FEB 1 STOCKS:			
	PRODUC- TION	TOTAL STOCKS: :FEB 1, 1981	AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUC- TION	TOTAL STOCKS: :FEB 1, 1982	AS % OF PRODUCTION
	: 1,000 CWT	PERCENT		: 1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	6,438	2,600	40	6,734	2,860	42
COLO	10,950	5,300	48	12,000	5,750	48
IDAHO	79,840	46,500	58	80,040	44,500	56
MAINE	24,960	13,900	56	26,520	15,100	57
MICH	7,403	2,200	30	7,050	2,600	37
MINN	9,920	5,600	56	13,300	7,000	53
MONT	1,725	1,580	92	1,739	1,600	92
NEBR	1,876	1,100	59	2,252	1,350	60
N Y						
-L I	4,794	900	19	5,365	750	14
-UPST	6,250	1,300	21	6,875	1,900	28
N DAK	15,680	6,500	41	20,125	9,800	49
OHIO	1,995	185	9	1,845	160	9
OREG	19,745	9,600	49	21,710	10,500	48
PA	4,180	1,900	45	5,250	2,100	40
WASH	43,935	18,600	42	52,380	21,000	40
WIS	16,000	3,800	24	18,190	5,800	32
15 ST.						
TOTAL	255,691	121,565	48	281,375	132,770	47

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1, 1982 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the February 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1962-81 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1982 potato stocks estimate is 3.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 133 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent or approximately 3.98 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent or approximately 6.90 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.3 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 0.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1982, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES				TOTAL
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS		
PERCENT					
COLO	14	5	81		100
IDAHO			1/2/100		100
MAINE		2/72	28		100
MICH 4/					
MINN	19	50	31		100
N Y		2/ 3/100			100
N DAK	25	60	15		100
OREG			1/ 2/100		100
PA		2/100			100
WASH			1/ 2/100		100
WIS	9	30	61		100
11 STATE TOTAL	4	22	74		100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

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Disappearance to February 1, 1982 in the 15 major fall States totals 149 million cwt, 11 percent above the same period a year ago. This includes 19.5 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss). Disappearance for the month of January totaled 27.2 million cwt compared with 25.0 million cwt for January 1981.

Potatoes processed to February 1, 1982 in the seven major processing States total 59.0 million cwt, 18 percent more than the same period a year earlier. During January 10.1 million cwt were processed compared with 8.9 million cwt for January 1981.